

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

Thank you for your unprecedented leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and for your actions to counter Chinese aggression on the global stage. It is with those efforts in mind that we write to respectfully request your department use all the tools at its disposal to ensure residents of Hong Kong fleeing persecution by the government of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) find refuge. Hong Kongers share many of our American values and will be productive, upstanding residents of Western democracies.

Hong Kong was once a beacon of freedom and capitalism in Asia as one of the largest financial and commercial hubs in the world. Since 1997, the Joint Declaration and Basic Law provided Hong Kong with an independent judiciary, freedom of speech and press, and some ability to choose its own leaders through elections. However, the PRC has taken repeated and disturbing actions to curb that autonomy.

Last year, Hong Kongers took to the streets to protest a pending fugitive offenders' bill which allowed extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China, where the judiciary is controlled by the Communist Party. In response, China cracked down on the pro-democracy protests and last month, overrode Hong Kong's Legislative Council to force through a law providing the regime with greater authority to arrest, detain, and surveil Hong Kongers. This is a historic violation of Hong Kong's autonomy and the "One Country, Two Systems" framework.

We strongly support the Trump Administration's recent actions to hold China accountable for encroaching on Hong Kong's autonomy, including certifying Hong Kong is no longer meaningfully autonomous from mainland China. We are encouraged by your recent comments that the U.S. is considering welcoming Hong Kongers to the U.S. and encourage your department to utilize existing authorities to ensure those fleeing persecution can find shelter. It is critical that the U.S. and our allies work together to achieve this common goal.

We appreciate your commitment to our national security, promoting democracy abroad, and upholding American values around the globe. We believe helping to ensure refuge for Hong Kongers seeking freedom from China's tyranny is consistent with those ideals and stand ready to work with you to protect those fighting for freedom and human rights.

Very Respectfully,



Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress